

Accomack

Resource Identification

National Register Eligibility Status
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0039

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Barracks

Est. Date of Construction: 1954 {Owner/written data}

Accessed? Yes

Primary Resource? Yes

Number of Stories: 3.0

Architectural Style: International Style

Condition: Good

Interior Plan Type: Irregular

Threats to Resource: None Known

Description: The long, narrow rectangular building has a poured concrete slab foundation and a flat roof. While the roof materials are not visible, aluminum flashing runs along the outside edge. The exterior walls of the concrete building are covered with a modern, spray-on stucco finish. The northeast and southwest elevations are twelve bays long; the north and south corner bays are recessed. Concrete ledges are cantilevered out from the wall plane along almost the entire length of the northeast and southwest elevations, at the top of each floor. An enclosed elevator shaft that projects from one bay on the northeast elevation interrupts the ledges. Horizontal lines are incised into the surface of the southeast and northwest elevations at the same level as the ledges. Three small, one-over-one double hung aluminum sash windows are stacked vertically on the northwest and southeast elevations. Two-over-two fixed aluminum sash windows are located in the bays on the top two floors of the long elevations while three-over-three fixed aluminum sash and single fixed aluminum sash windows are on the first. A flat, cantilevered concrete awning projects over doorways on the outer bays, each of which contains a steel door with a long narrow fixed-pane window. The doorways are accessed from grade by a short set of concrete stairs with metal guardrails that lead up to a landing platform directly in front of the doors. A one-story shed roof addition abuts the northeast elevation on the north side of the projecting elevator shaft. The addition is located at the end of a covered walkway that extends from the Proc. Fiscal Ofcs (Lib) Building (001-0027-0038, WFF # E-105) and contains a set of steel and glass double doors and a sliding steel sash window. A second one-story flat roof addition extends toward the northeast from the recessed north bay, containing a set of steel double doors and a single door with a three fixed-pane window. A modern, three-story addition has been constructed onto the north end of the southwest elevation of the Observational Science Building (001-0027-0039, WFF # E-106) that connects with the Sound Rocket/Balloon Project Building (001-0027-0040, WFF # E-107) to create a U-shaped building with the two E buildings located in the arms of the U. The addition is covered with the same modern, spray-on stucco finish and carries the same incised lines found on the northwest elevation of the Observational Science Building (001-0027-0039, WFF # E-106). The center of the addition contains an observation tower that sits above the joining walls, the base of which projects to the southeast. The first story of the bay projects even further to the southeast and has an entry surmounted by a hipped roof covered with corrugated steel panels. The entry is a set of glass and steel double doors placed centrally within a glass and steel surround. A set of concrete steps with steel guardrails leads up from a wide, concrete sidewalk to a raised landing platform directly in front of the entry. The top portion of the tower contains a metal support railing that provides protection for an exterior observation platform above which a band of fixed steel sash windows with smoked glass extends on all four sides, placed beneath a concrete cap. The top of the tower also serves as an observation deck and is surrounded by metal support railings. The building is one of the few buildings constructed on CNAAS/WFF designed with an attention to a twentieth-century architectural style idiom. The building shows elements of the International Style with an absence of ornament, attention to the creation of rectangular, flat roofs, reinforced concrete construction, and smooth wall surfaces.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Department of Historic Resources

Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0039

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This three-story building, built in 1954, is one of five almost identical buildings grouped together along the northwest side of Fulton Street near the geographic center of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base. Originally, the building was used as enlisted men's barracks for the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS). The building was designated as the "Barracks...Under Construction" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It appears as "E-106" on the 1957 "General Development Plan – Naval Air Station, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. The building is currently used as the Observational Science Building. The building is placed between the Proc. Fiscal Ofcs (Lib) Building (001-0027-0038, WFF # E-105) to the northeast and Sound Rocket/Balloon Project Building (001-0027-0040, WFF # E-107) to the southwest. Areas of lawn, divided by continuous concrete sidewalks, surround the building on all four sides.

The building is representative of a Military/Defense property type that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945 – present) period. The building was one of several buildings constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) in the mid-1950s. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station.

The Observational Science Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The resource's integrity of design, materials and workmanship has been adversely affected by numerous additions, the use of a modern exterior treatment, and the replacement of the building's doors, windows and other original building fabric. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0039

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: Giffels and Valet
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21533	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 6-17

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2004/07/99
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2003/08/08
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814